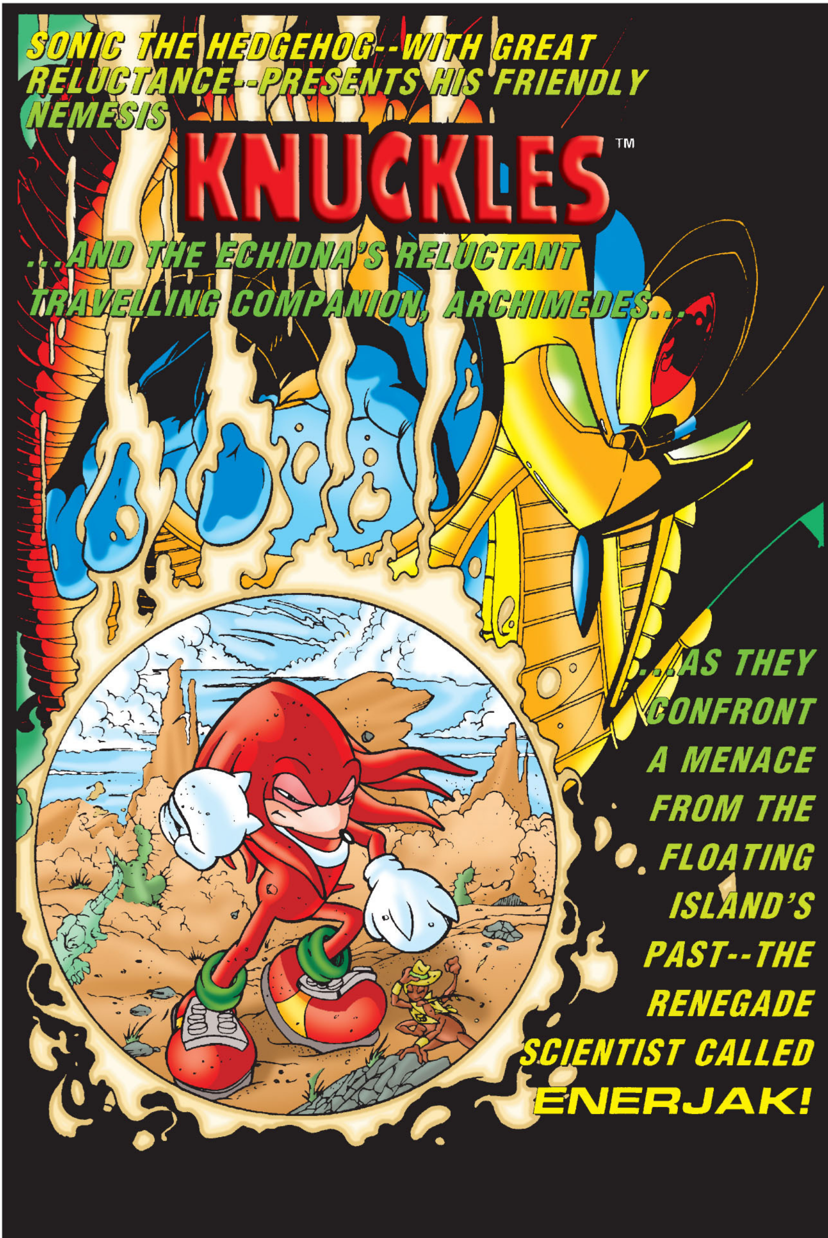

Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.2
AUG.
$1.50
SEGA
SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
#2 OF 3 ISSUE MINI-SERIES
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • MAWHINNEY
HARVO • KANTEROVICH • EISMAN • HUNTER



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG--WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE--PRESENTS HIS FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™
...AND THE ECHIDNA'S RELUCTANT TRAVELLING COMPANION, ARCHIMEDES...
...AS THEY CONFRONT A MENACE FROM THE FLOATING ISLAND'S PAST--THE RENEGADE SCIENTIST CALLED ENERJAK!

Knuckles' ancestral heritage was one of DUTY and HONOR... or so he'd been led to believe. But today, a threat to the FLOATING ISLAND — and all existence — has unveiled the DARK SIDE of ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION.

His role as GUARDIAN of the CHAOS EMERALD — long thought the noblest of callings — is, in truth, atonement for the treachery of an ancestor who dared place HIMSELF above the GREATER GOOD.

That ancestor — the renegade Echidna scientist named DIMITRI — has survived a thousand years of imprisonment beneath MOUNT FATE, and returned to work his evil will as ENERJAK, HARBINGER OF CHAOS!

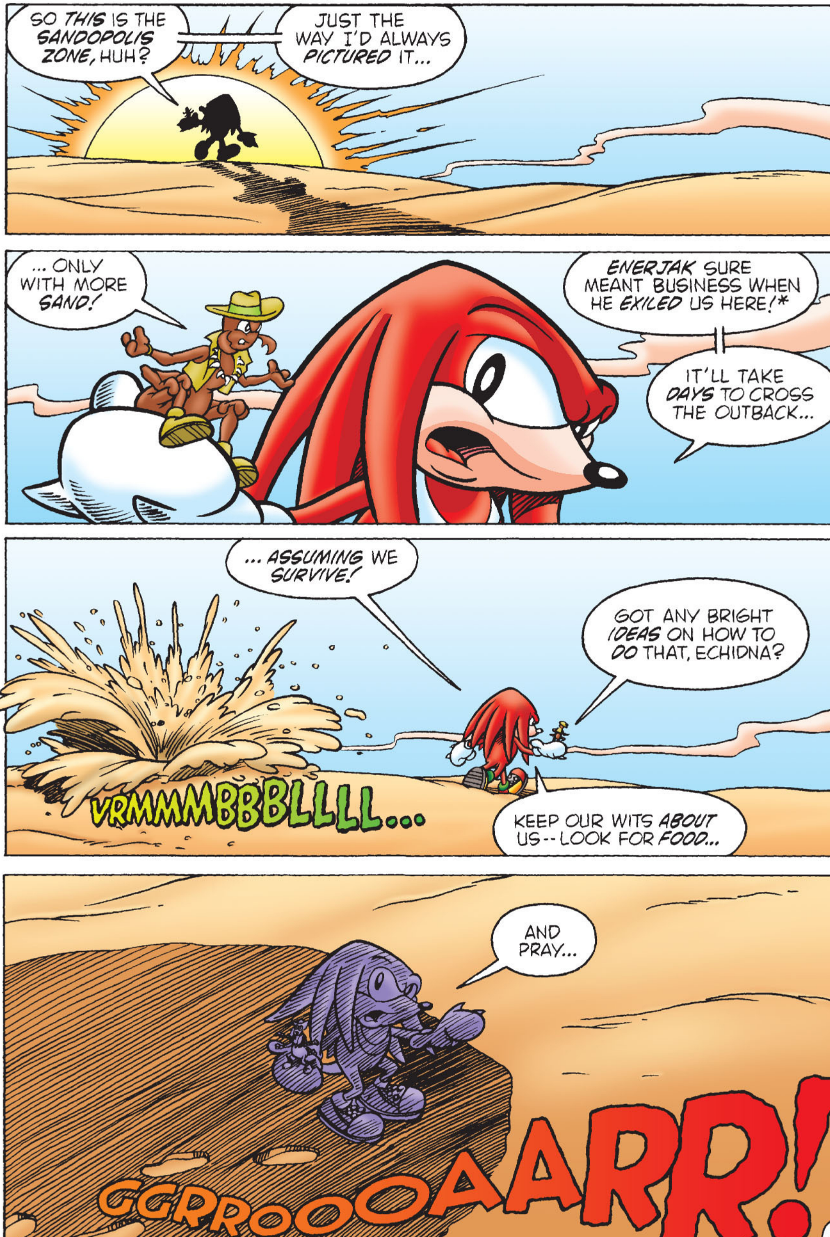
The straits are dire...

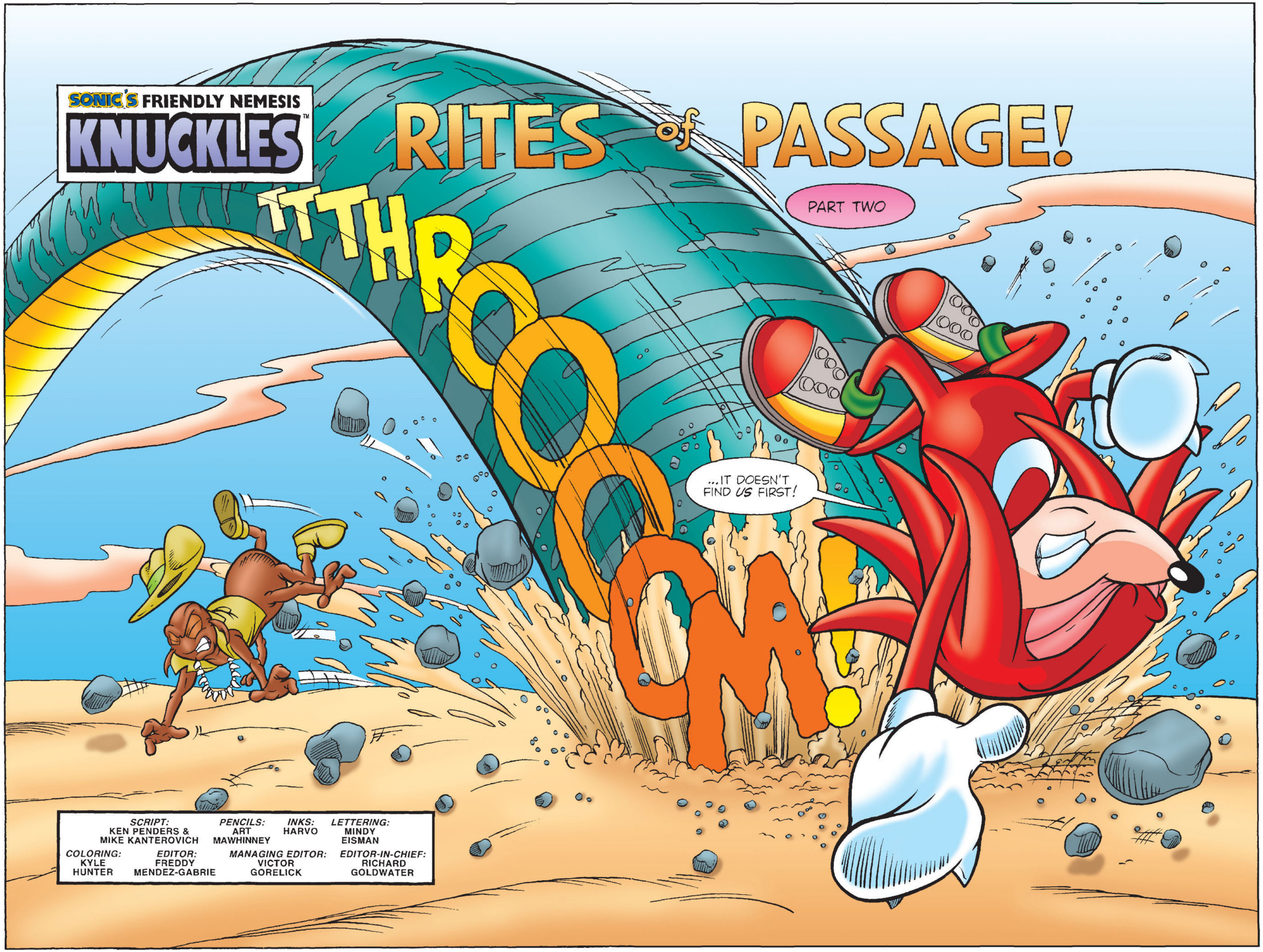
...but Knuckles is not alone.

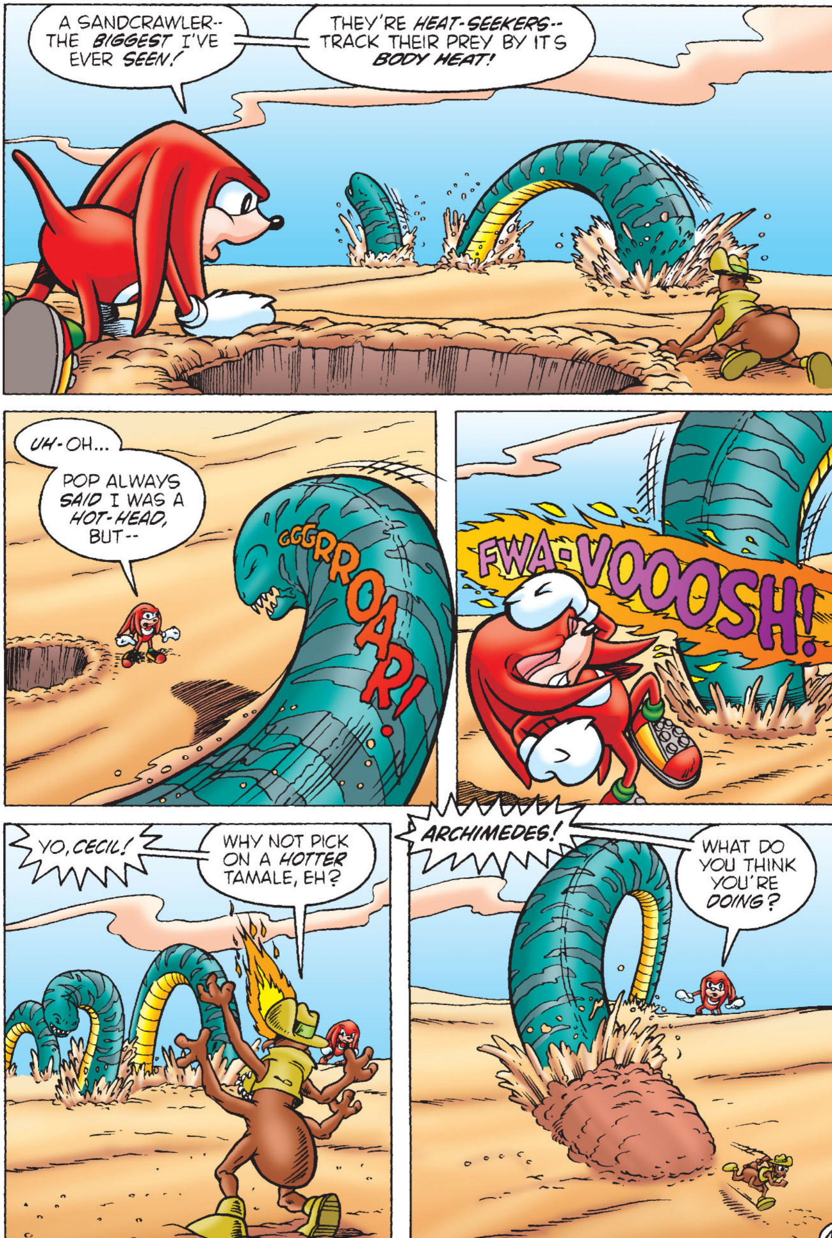
At his side stands ARCHIMEDES THE FIRE-ANT, ambassador of a race which shares a secret, symbiotic relationship with the Echidnas. A relationship dating back to the origins of the island... even though, in theory, their peoples are natural enemies!

Now confronted by a greater evil, Knuckles and this unlikely ally must apply the lessons of the PAST to the PRESENT...

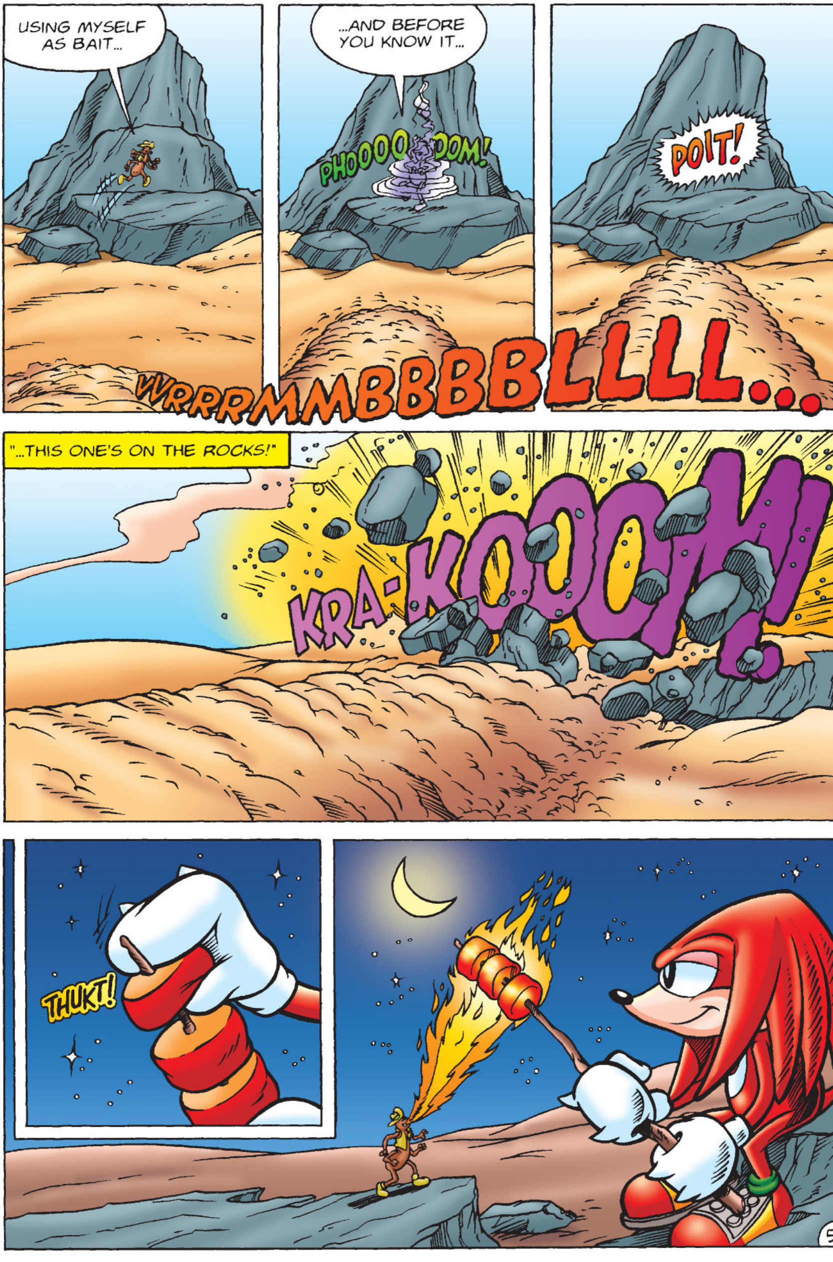
...or there will be no future for ANY of them!

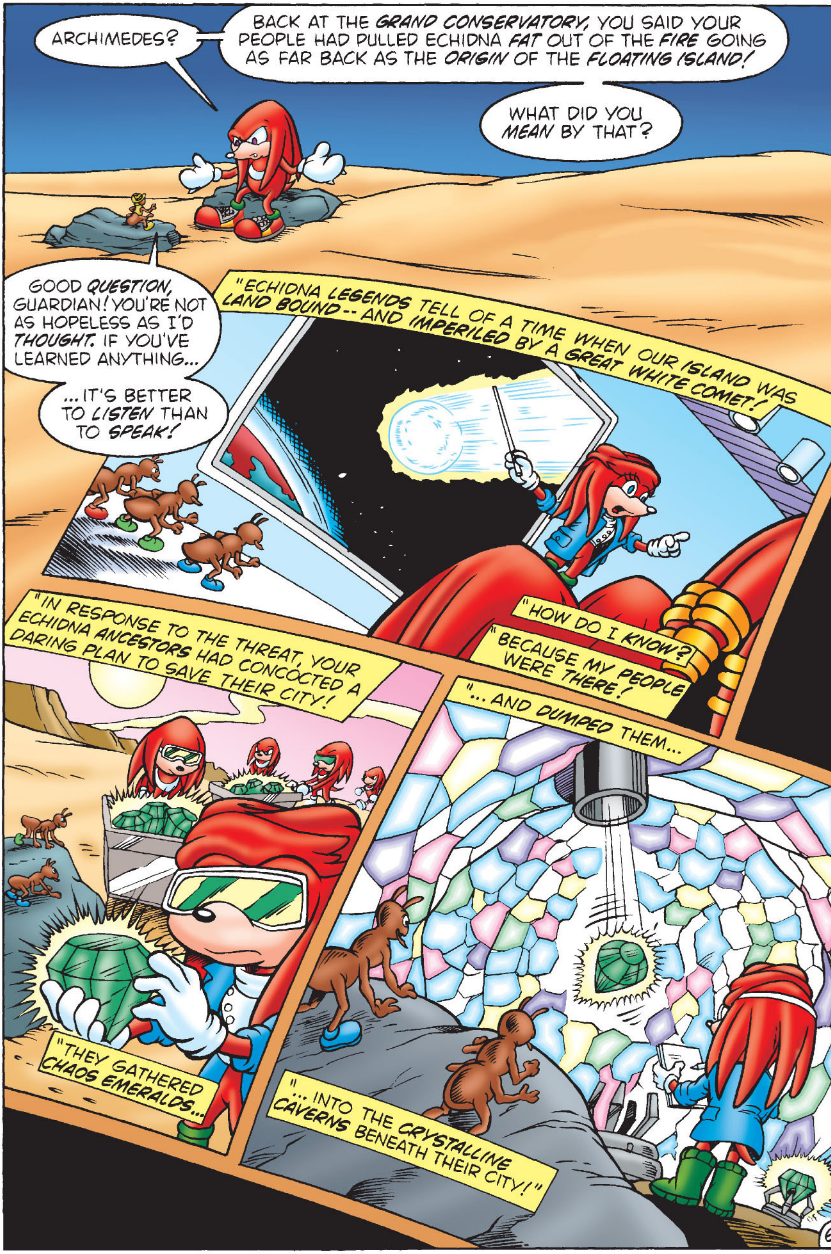

SO THIS IS THE SANDOPOLIS ZONE, HUH?
JUST THE WAY I'D ALWAYS PICTURED IT...
... ONLY WITH MORE SAND!
ENERJAK SURE MEANT BUSINESS WHEN HE EXILED US HERE!*
IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO CROSS THE OUTBACK...
... ASSUMING WE SURVIVE!
GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS ON HOW TO DO THAT, ECHIDNA?
VRMMMBBBLLLL...
KEEP OUR WITS ABOUT US--LOOK FOR FOOD...
AND PRAY...
GGRROOOOAARR!
1

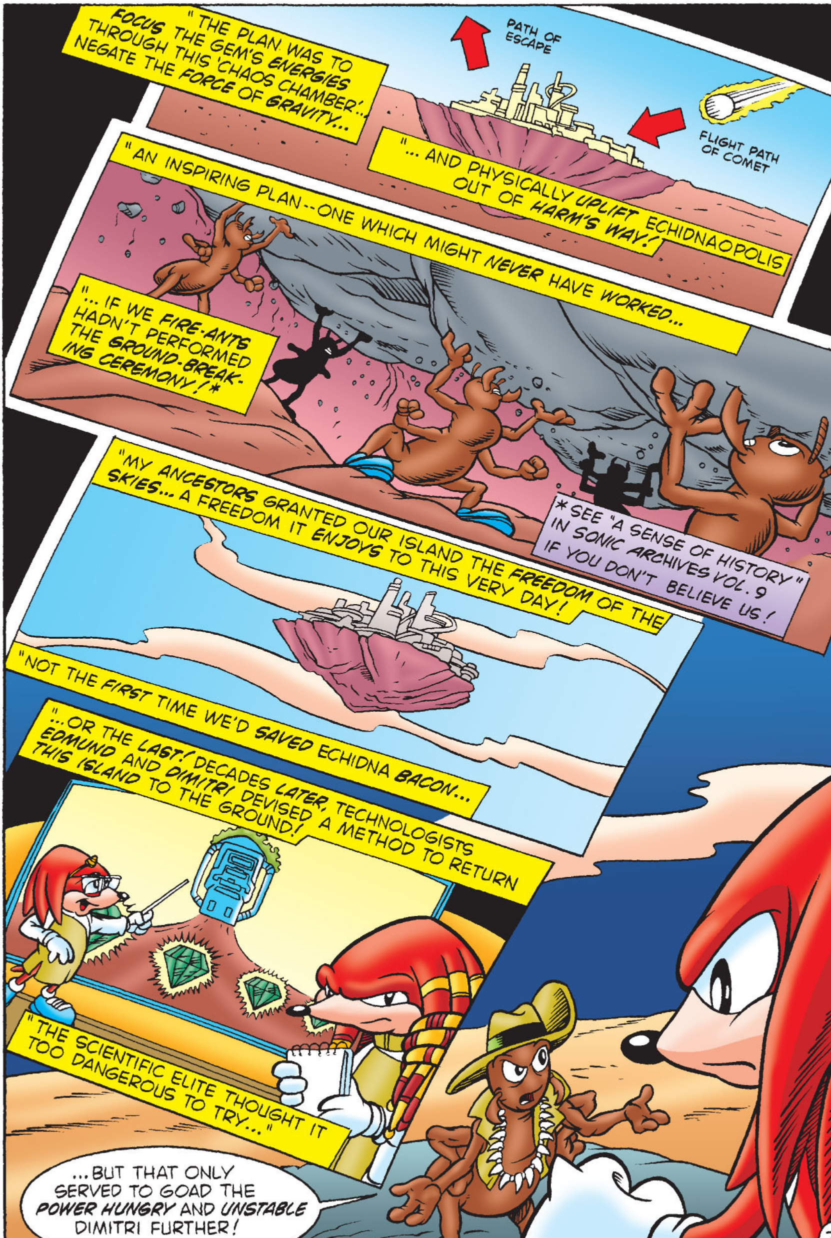

SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™
RITES of PASSAGE!
PART TWO
TTTHROOOOOM!
...IT DOESN'T FIND US FIRST!
SCRIPT: KEN PENDERS & MIKE KANTEROVICH
PENCILS: ART MAWHINNEY
INKS: HARVO
LETTERING: MINDY EISMAN
COLORING: KYLE HUNTER
EDITOR: FREDDY MENDEZ-GABRIE
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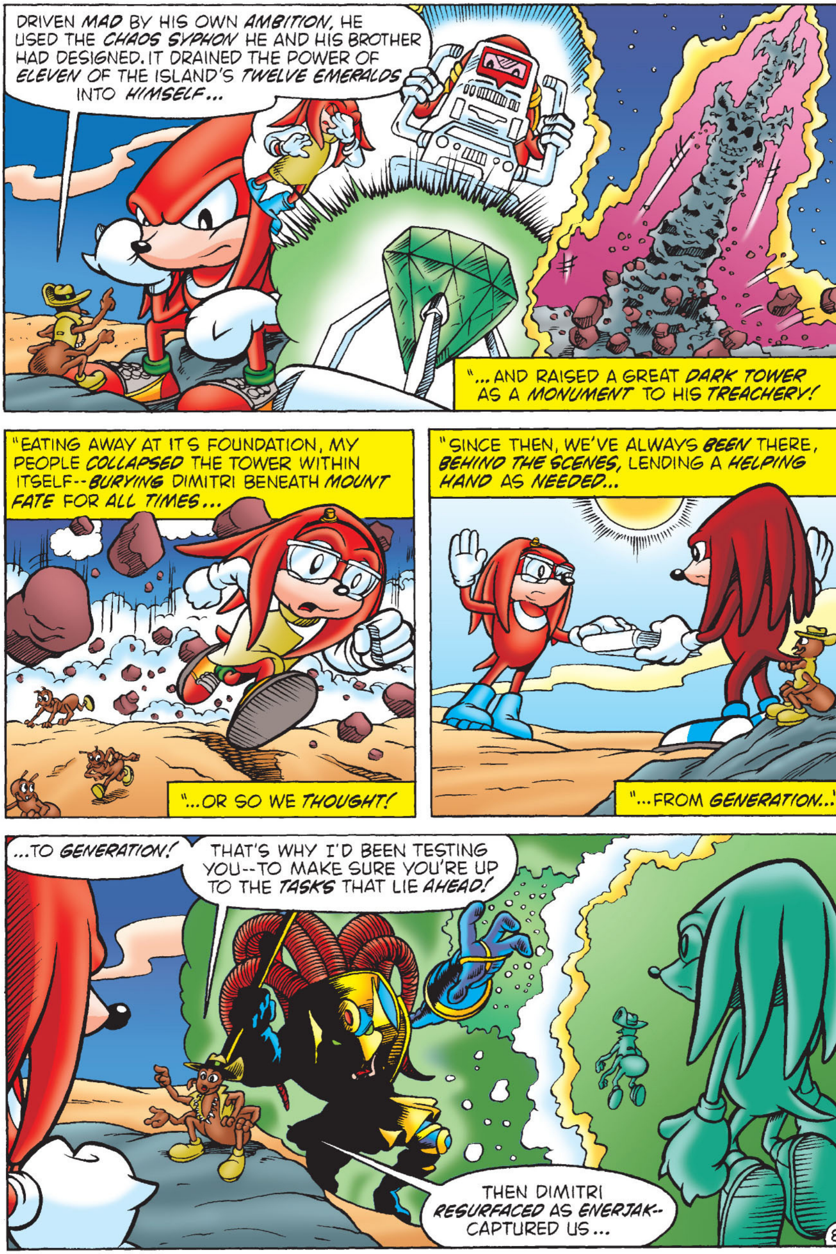


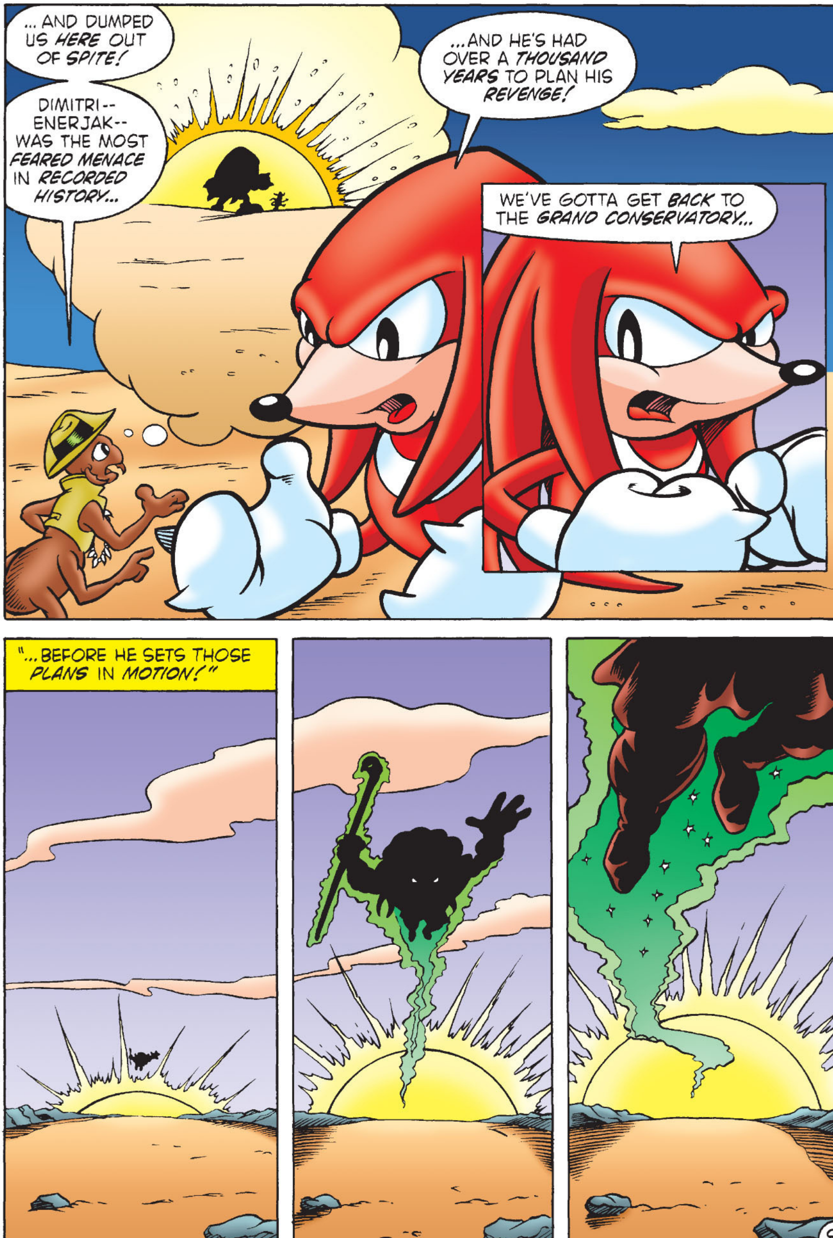
A SANDCRAWLER-- THE *BIGGEST* I'VE EVER *SEEN!*
THEY'RE *HEAT-SEEKERS*-- TRACK THEIR PREY BY ITS *BODY HEAT!*
UH-OH...
POP ALWAYS *SAID* I WAS A *HOT-HEAD,* BUT--
GGGRROAR!
FWA-VOOOSH!
YO, *CECIL!*
WHY NOT PICK ON A *HOTTER* TAMALE, EH?
ARCHIMEDES!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*


USING MYSELF AS BAIT...
...AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
PHOOOOOOOM!
POIT!
WRRRRMMBBBBLLLL...
"...THIS ONE'S ON THE ROCKS!"
KRA-KOOOOM!
THUKT!


ARCHIMEDES?
BACK AT THE GRAND CONSERVATORY, YOU SAID YOUR PEOPLE HAD PULLED ECHIDNA FAT OUT OF THE FIRE GOING AS FAR BACK AS THE ORIGIN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND!
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
GOOD QUESTION, GUARDIAN! YOU'RE NOT AS HOPELESS AS I'D THOUGHT. IF YOU'VE LEARNED ANYTHING...
...IT'S BETTER TO LISTEN THAN TO SPEAK!
"ECHIDNA LEGENDS TELL OF A TIME WHEN OUR ISLAND WAS LAND BOUND-- AND IMPERILED BY A GREAT WHITE COMET!
"HOW DO I KNOW?
"BECAUSE MY PEOPLE WERE THERE!
"IN RESPONSE TO THE THREAT, YOUR ECHIDNA ANCESTORS HAD CONCOCTED A DARING PLAN TO SAVE THEIR CITY!
"THEY GATHERED CHAOS EMERALDS...
"...AND DUMPED THEM...
"...INTO THE CRYSTALLINE CAVERNS BENEATH THEIR CITY!"

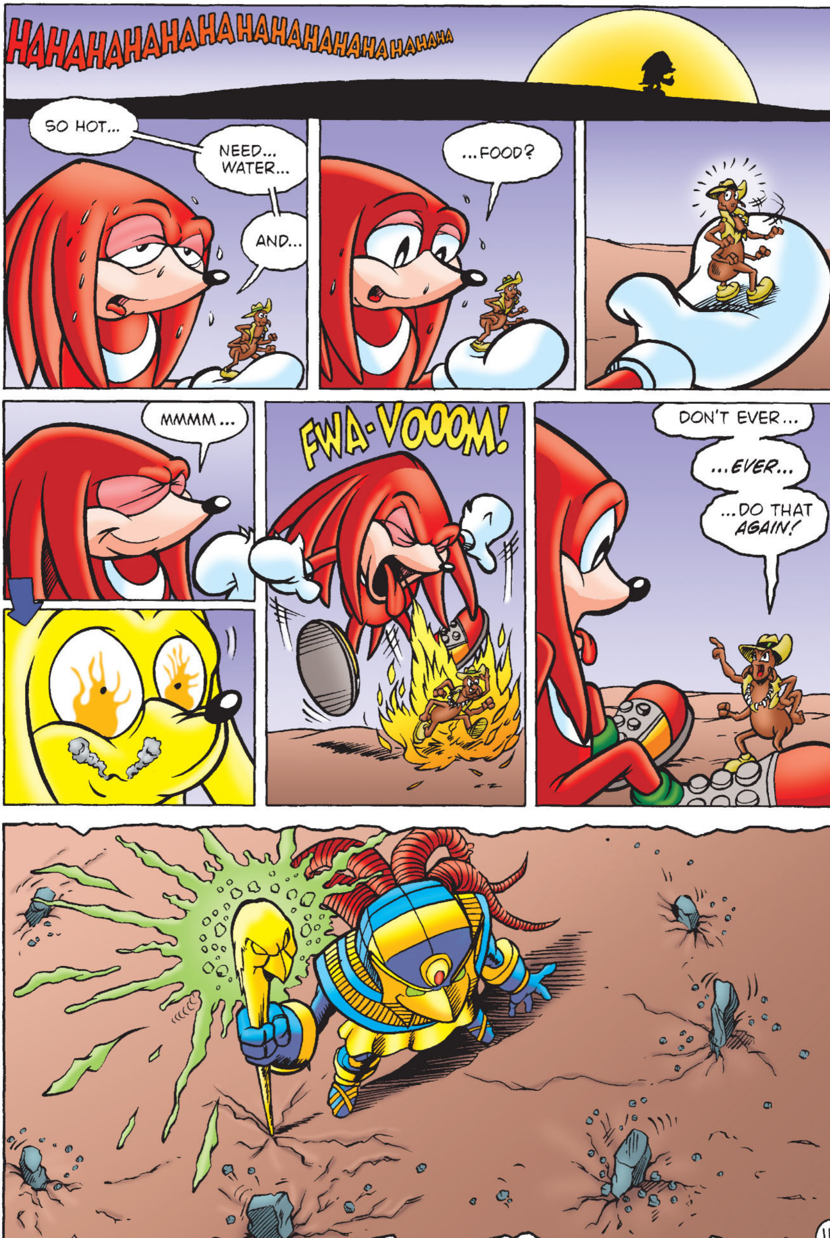

"THE PLAN WAS TO FOCUS THE GEM'S ENERGIES THROUGH THIS 'CHAOS CHAMBER'... NEGATE THE FORCE OF GRAVITY...
PATH OF ESCAPE
FLIGHT PATH OF COMET
"... AND PHYSICALLY UPLIFT ECHIDNAOPOLIS OUT OF HARM'S WAY!
"AN INSPIRING PLAN--ONE WHICH MIGHT NEVER HAVE WORKED...
"... IF WE FIRE-ANTS HADN'T PERFORMED THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY!*
* SEE "A SENSE OF HISTORY" IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 9 IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US!
"MY ANCESTORS GRANTED OUR ISLAND THE FREEDOM OF THE SKIES... A FREEDOM IT ENJOYS TO THIS VERY DAY!
"NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'D SAVED ECHIDNA BACON...
"...OR THE LAST! DECADES LATER, TECHNOLOGISTS EDMUND AND DIMITRI DEVISED A METHOD TO RETURN THIS ISLAND TO THE GROUND!
"THE SCIENTIFIC ELITE THOUGHT IT TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY..."
...BUT THAT ONLY SERVED TO GOAD THE POWER HUNGRY AND UNSTABLE DIMITRI FURTHER!


DRIVEN MAD BY HIS OWN AMBITION, HE USED THE CHAOS SYPHON HE AND HIS BROTHER HAD DESIGNED. IT DRAINED THE POWER OF ELEVEN OF THE ISLAND'S TWELVE EMERALDS INTO HIMSELF...
"...AND RAISED A GREAT DARK TOWER AS A MONUMENT TO HIS TREACHERY!
"EATING AWAY AT IT'S FOUNDATION, MY PEOPLE COLLAPSED THE TOWER WITHIN ITSELF--BURYING DIMITRI BENEATH MOUNT FATE FOR ALL TIMES...
"...OR SO WE THOUGHT!
"SINCE THEN, WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE, BEHIND THE SCENES, LENDING A HELPING HAND AS NEEDED...
"...FROM GENERATION..."
...TO GENERATION!
THAT'S WHY I'D BEEN TESTING YOU--TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE UP TO THE TASKS THAT LIE AHEAD!
THEN DIMITRI RESURFACED AS ENERJAK--CAPTURED US...
8

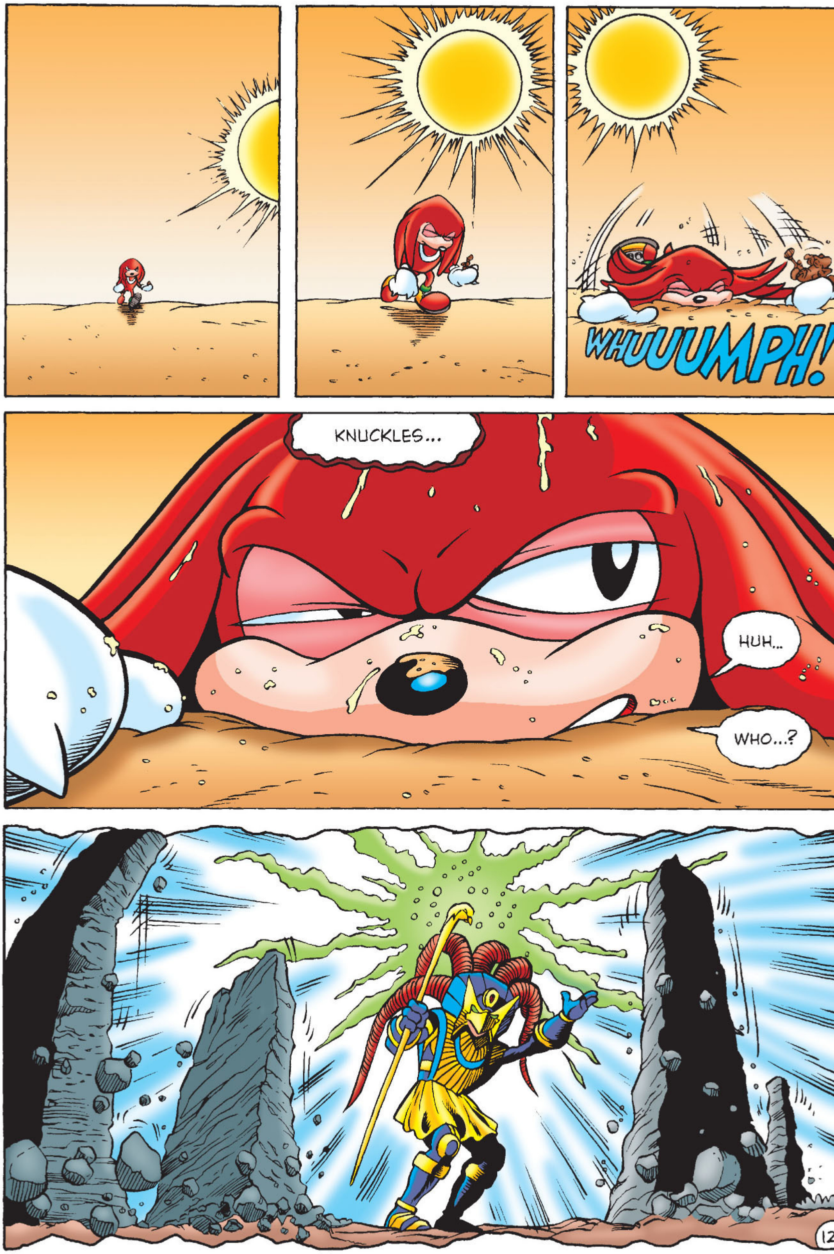

...AND DUMPED US HERE OUT OF SPITE!
DIMITRI-- ENERJAK-- WAS THE MOST FEARED MENACE IN RECORDED HISTORY...
...AND HE'S HAD OVER A THOUSAND YEARS TO PLAN HIS REVENGE!
WE'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE GRAND CONSERVATORY...
"...BEFORE HE SETS THOSE PLANS IN MOTION!"
9



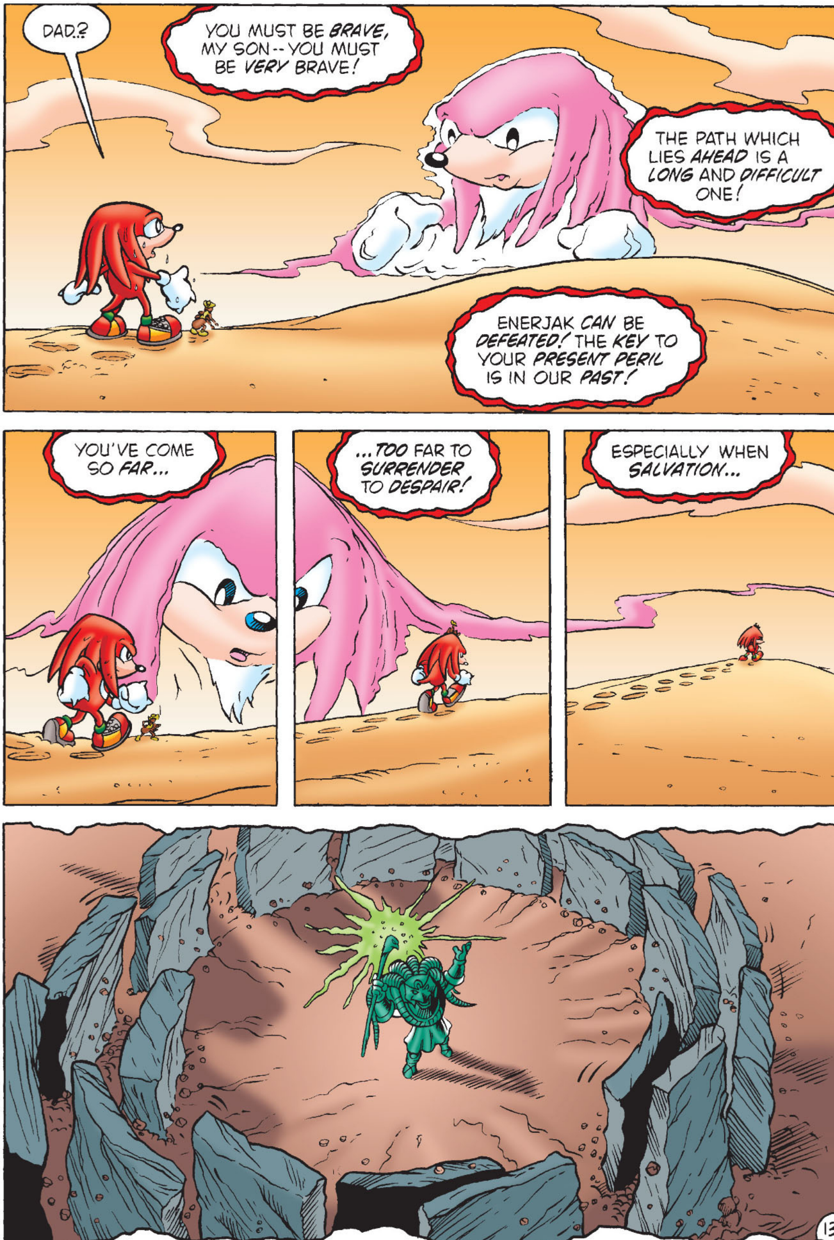
EXCELLENT!
WITH THE GUARDIAN AND THE FIRE-ANT DISPATCHED...
...AND THEIR ALLIES, THE APTLY-NAMED CHAOTIX--"INDISPOSED"...
...I MAY EFFECT MY HOMECOMING UNDISTURBED!
AT LONG, LONG LAST--THE FORMER SITE OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS!
OR SHOULD I SAY...
...THE ONCE AND FUTURE SITE OF NEKRONOPOLIS!!!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH
THOK!
K-RRMMMMBBLL...!
10

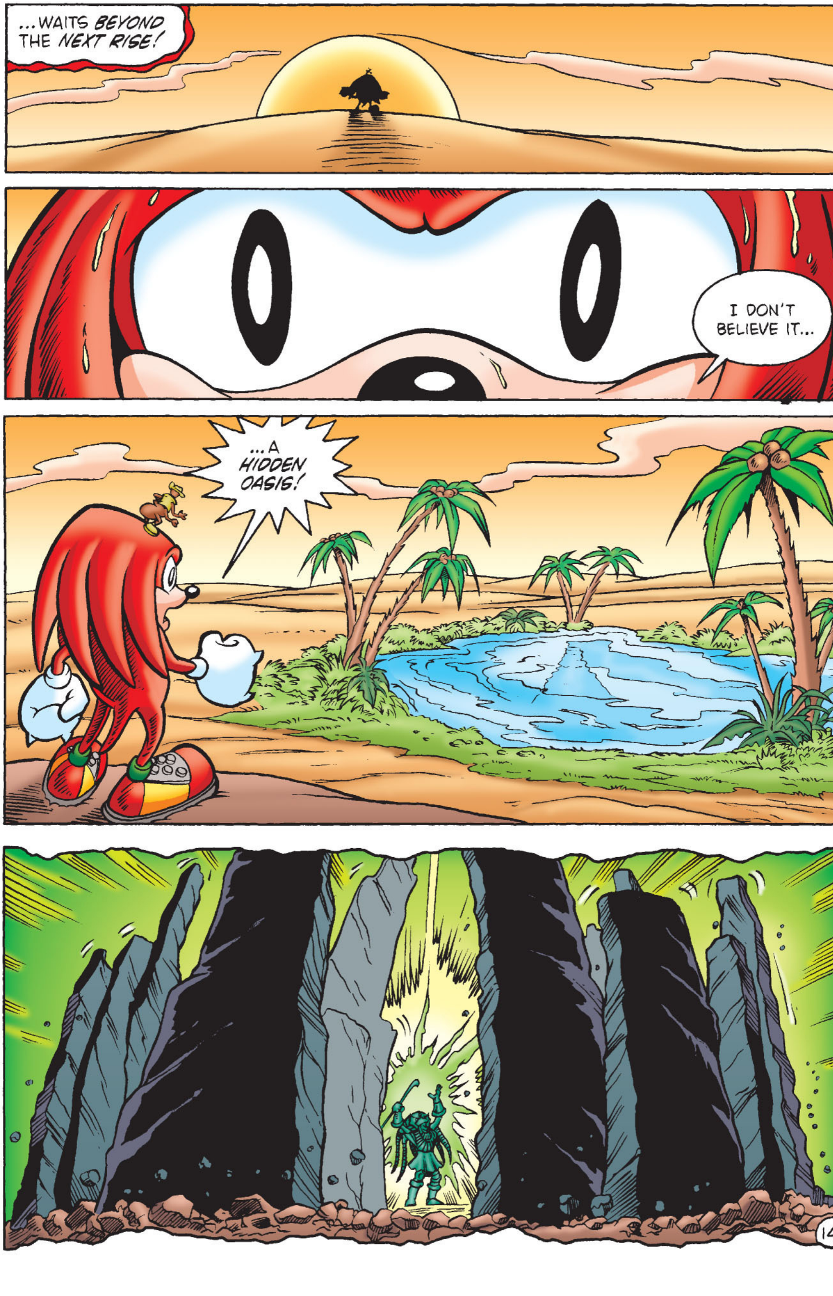


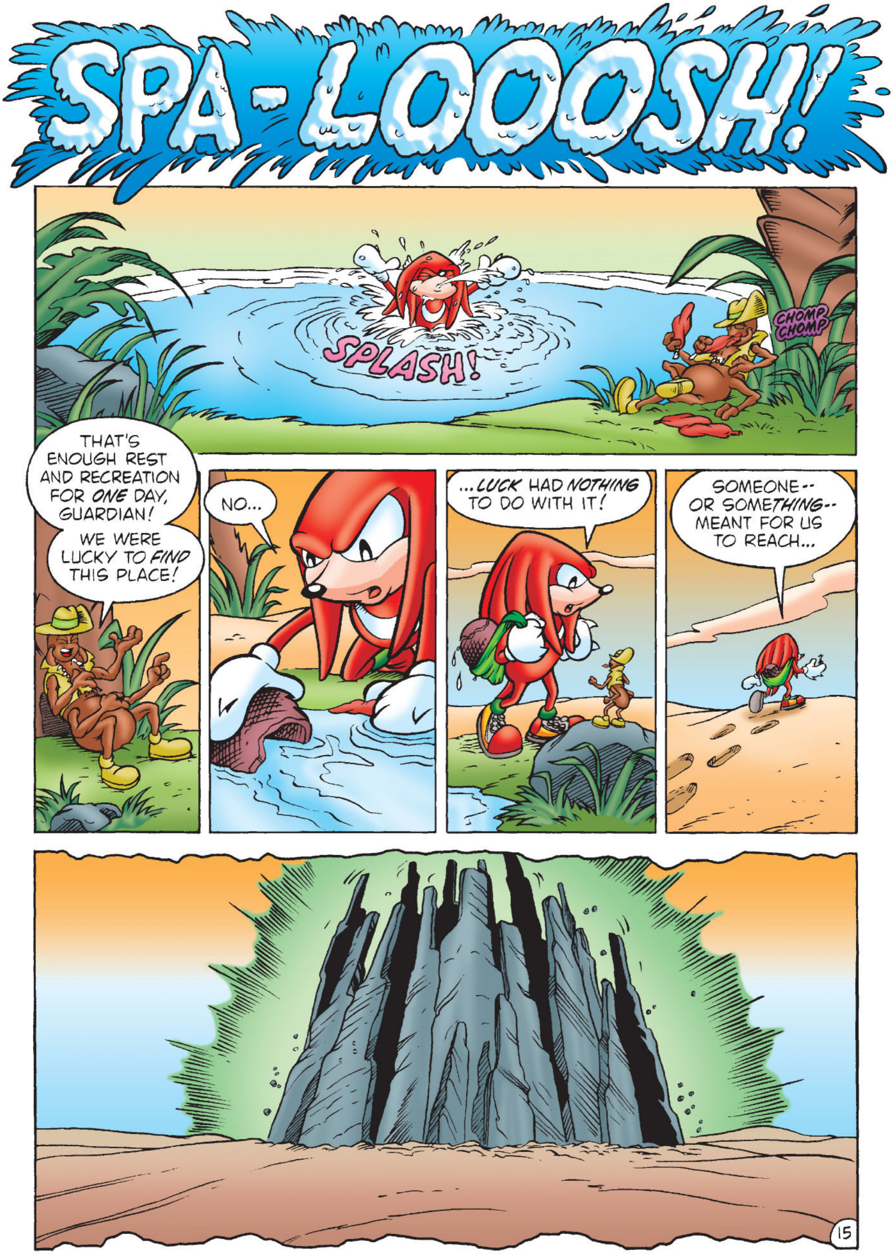
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
SO HOT...
NEED... WATER...
AND...
...FOOD?
MMMM...
FWA-VOOOM!
DON'T EVER...
...EVER...
...DO THAT AGAIN!
11



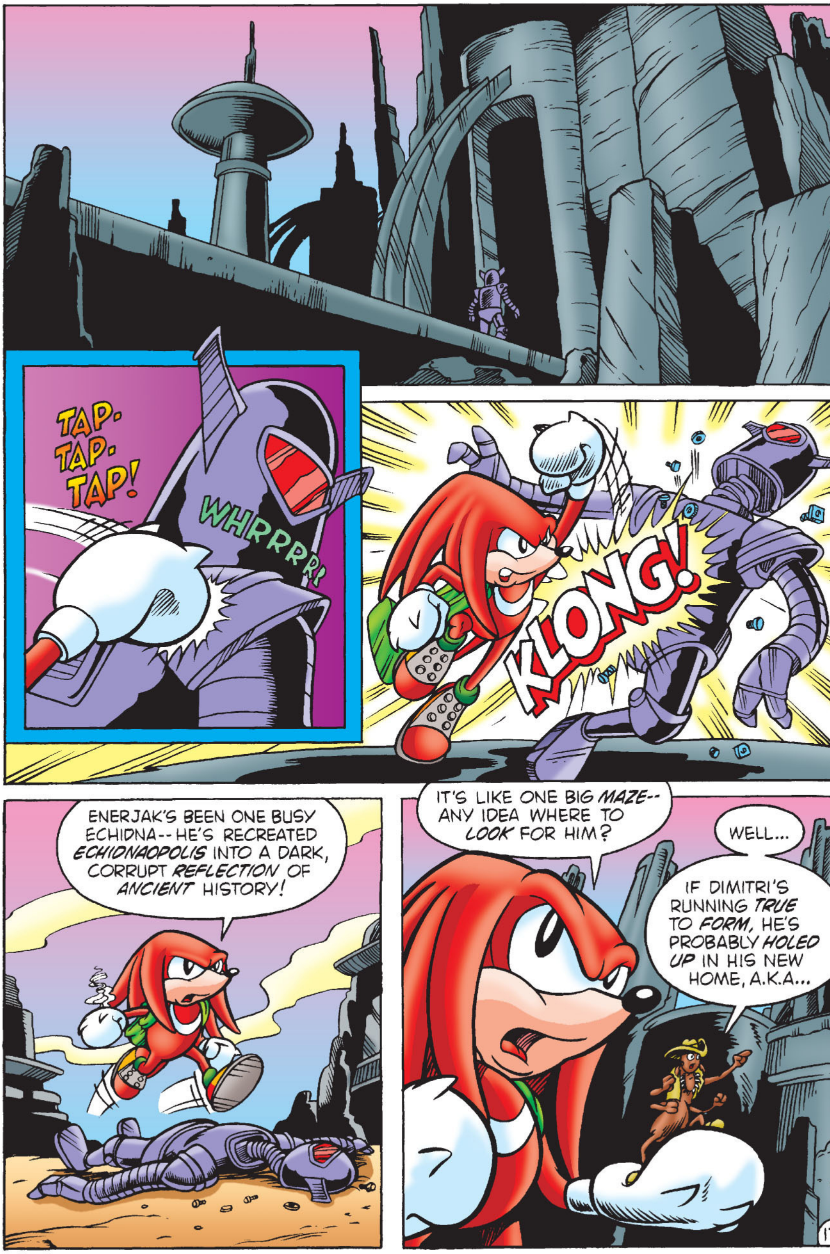
WHUUUMPH!
KNUCKLES...
HUH...
WHO...?
12

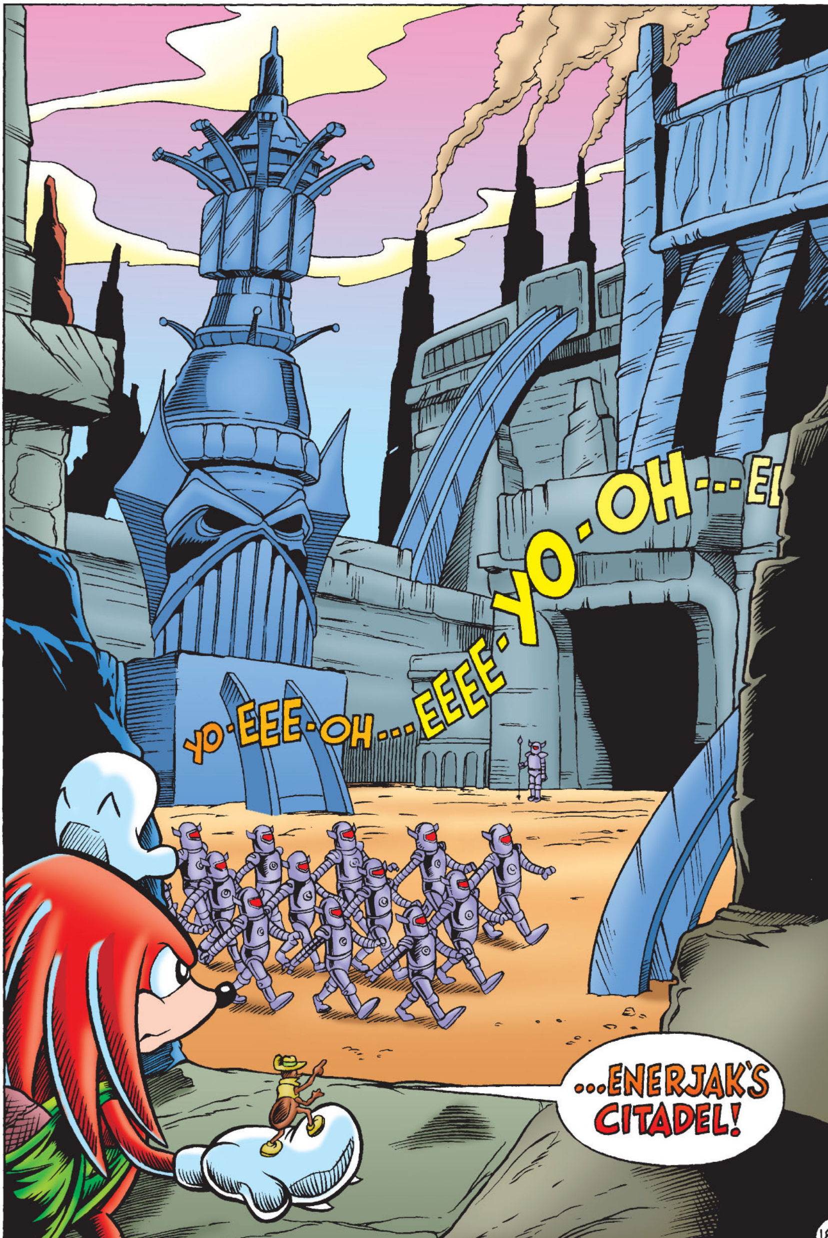

DAD..?
YOU MUST BE BRAVE, MY SON -- YOU MUST BE VERY BRAVE!
THE PATH WHICH LIES AHEAD IS A LONG AND DIFFICULT ONE!
ENERJAK CAN BE DEFEATED! THE KEY TO YOUR PRESENT PERIL IS IN OUR PAST!
YOU'VE COME SO FAR...
...TOO FAR TO SURRENDER TO DESPAIR!
ESPECIALLY WHEN SALVATION...
13

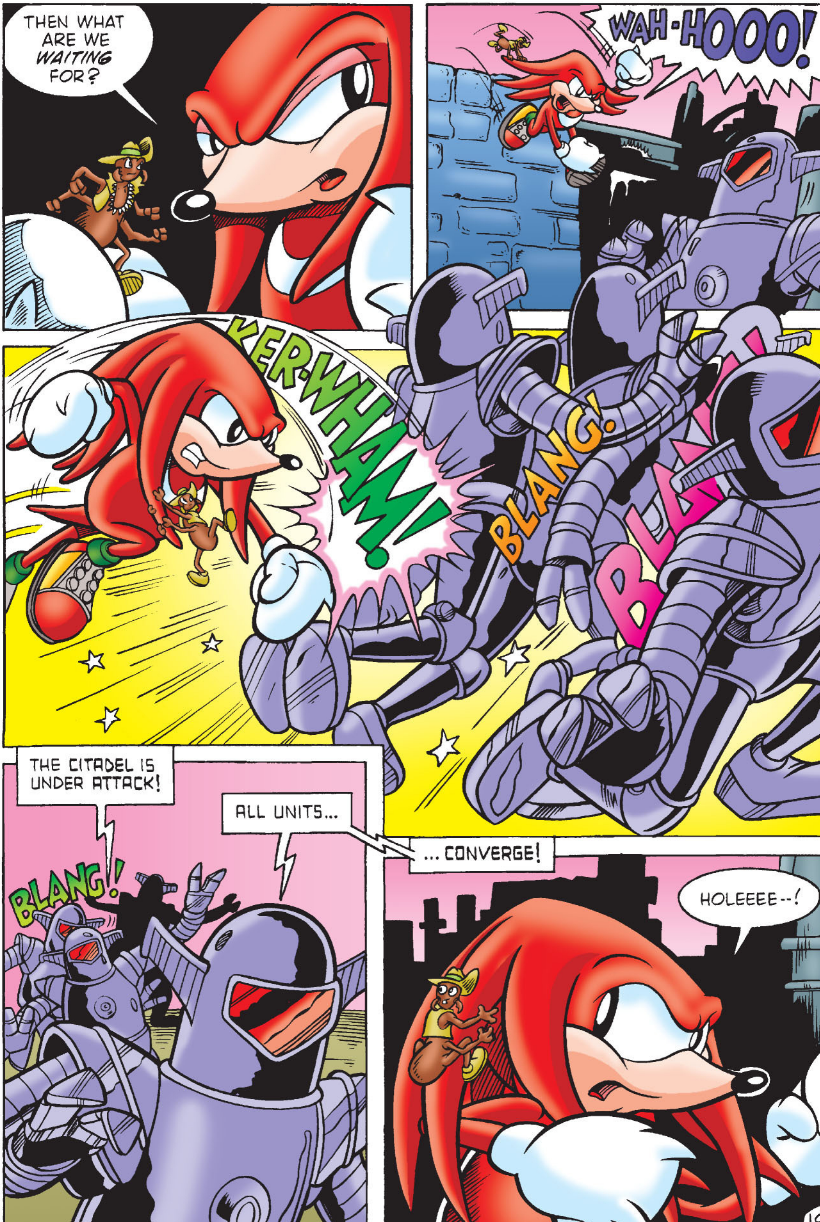

...WAITS BEYOND THE NEXT RISE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
...A HIDDEN OASIS!


SPA-LOOOSH!
SPLASH!
CHOMP CHOMP
THAT'S ENOUGH REST AND RECREATION FOR ONE DAY, GUARDIAN!
WE WERE LUCKY TO FIND THIS PLACE!
NO...
...LUCK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
SOMEONE-- OR SOMETHING-- MEANT FOR US TO REACH...
15

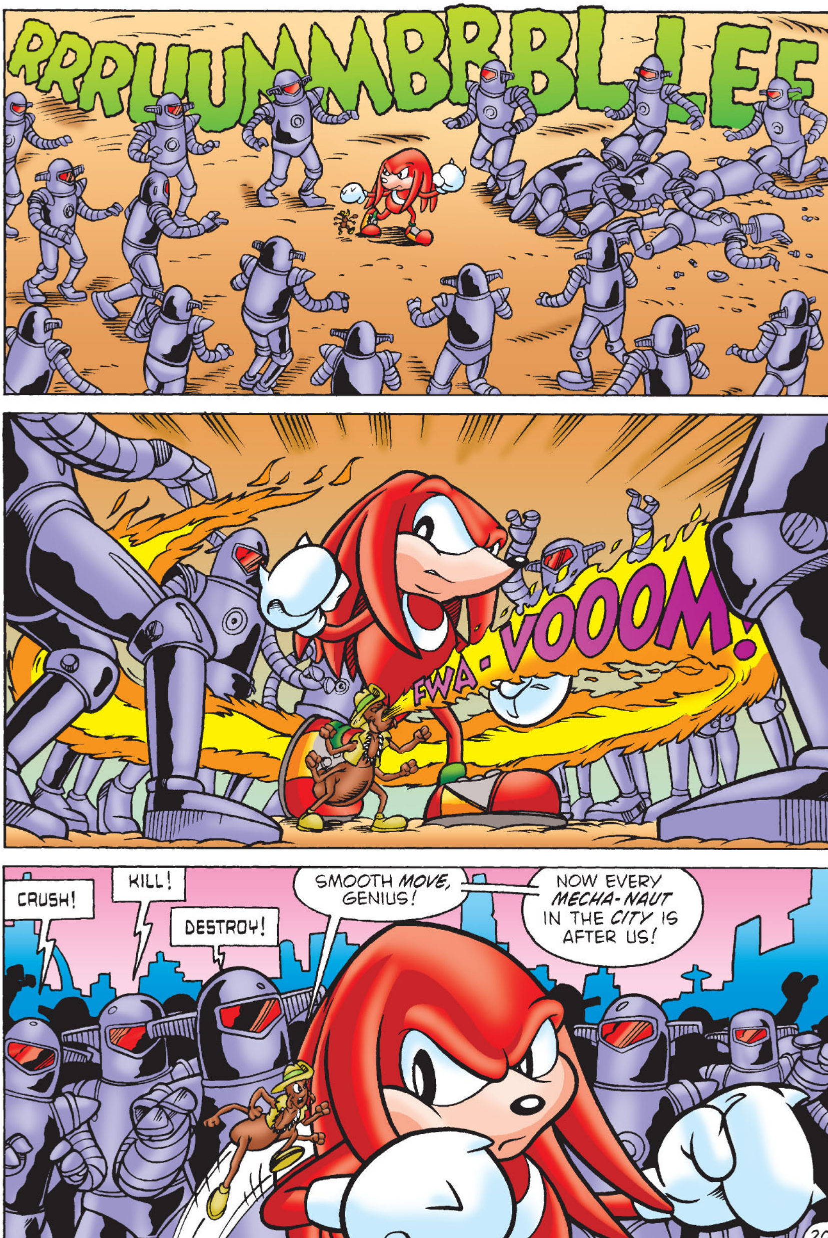

...THE OASIS?
IT'S GONE!
BUT IT HAD TO BE THERE!
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THOSE HOT PEPPERS I WAS EATING...
...AND THE SUPPLIES FOR THESE BACKPACKS.
THEY'RE NOT A MIRAGE. THEY MUST'VE COME FROM SOMEWHERE...OR SOMEONE.
HMM...
EVEN IF THE OASIS WAS A MIRAGE...
...THAT CITY IN FRONT OF US IS AS REAL AS IT GETS!
16

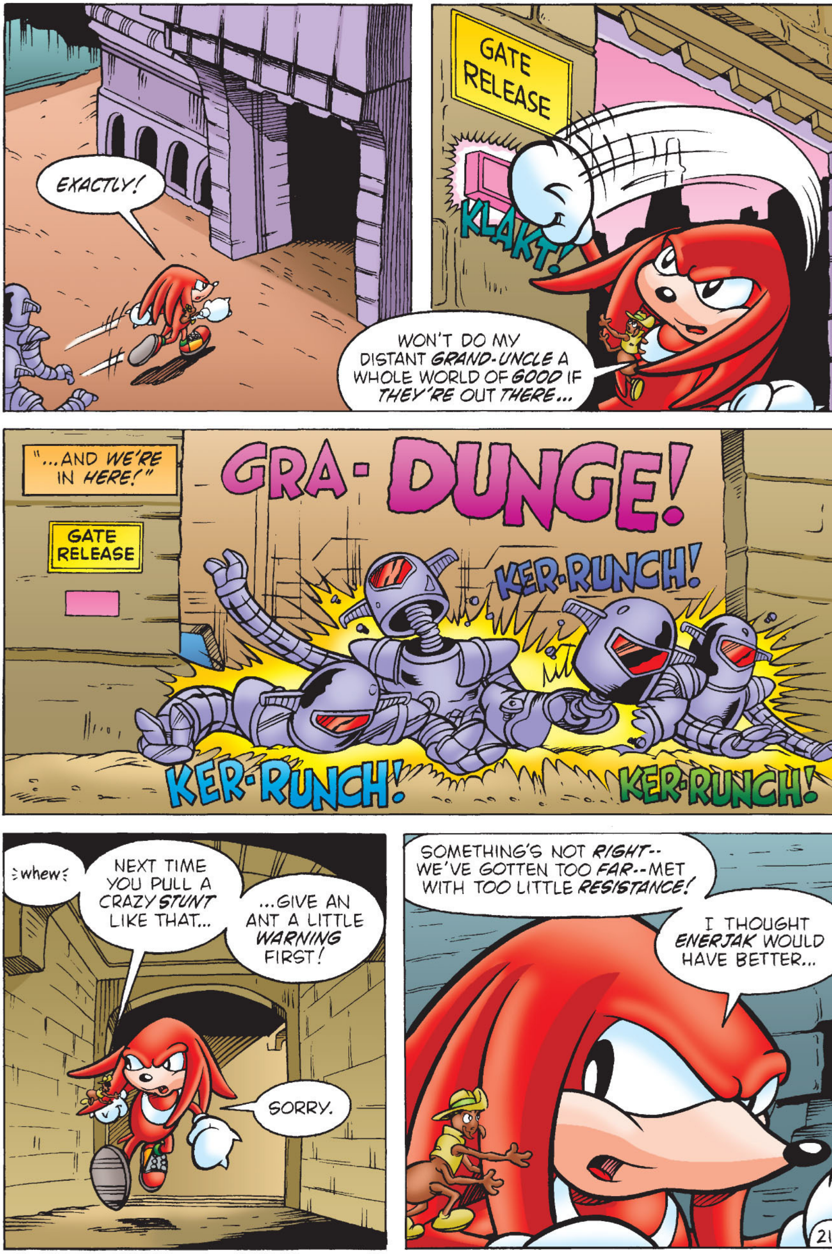

TAP-TAP-TAP!
WHRRRRR!
KLONG!
ENERJAK'S BEEN ONE BUSY ECHIDNA--HE'S RECREATED ECHIDNAOPOLIS INTO A DARK, CORRUPT REFLECTION OF ANCIENT HISTORY!
IT'S LIKE ONE BIG MAZE--ANY IDEA WHERE TO LOOK FOR HIM?
WELL...
IF DIMITRI'S RUNNING TRUE TO FORM, HE'S PROBABLY HOLED UP IN HIS NEW HOME, A.K.A...
17

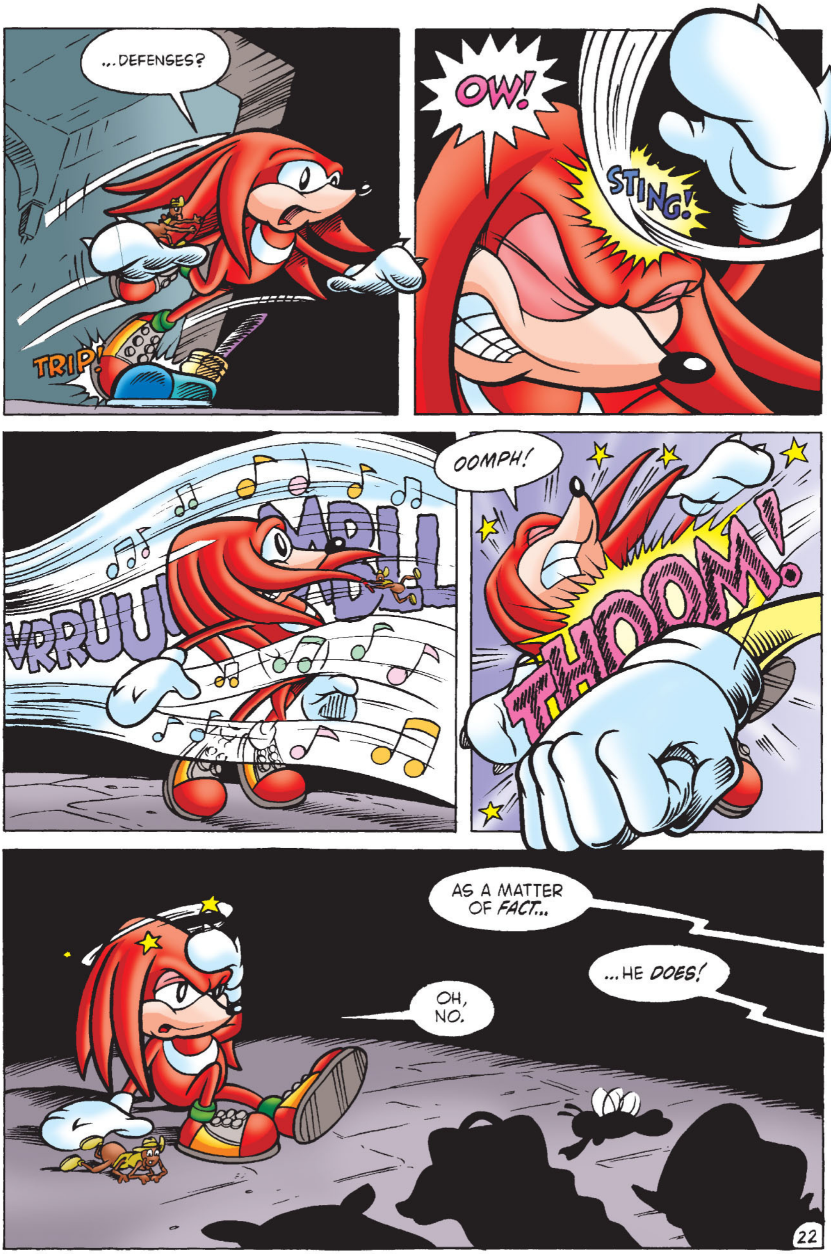

YO-EEE-OH...EEEE-YO-OH...EE
...ENERJAK'S CITADEL!
18



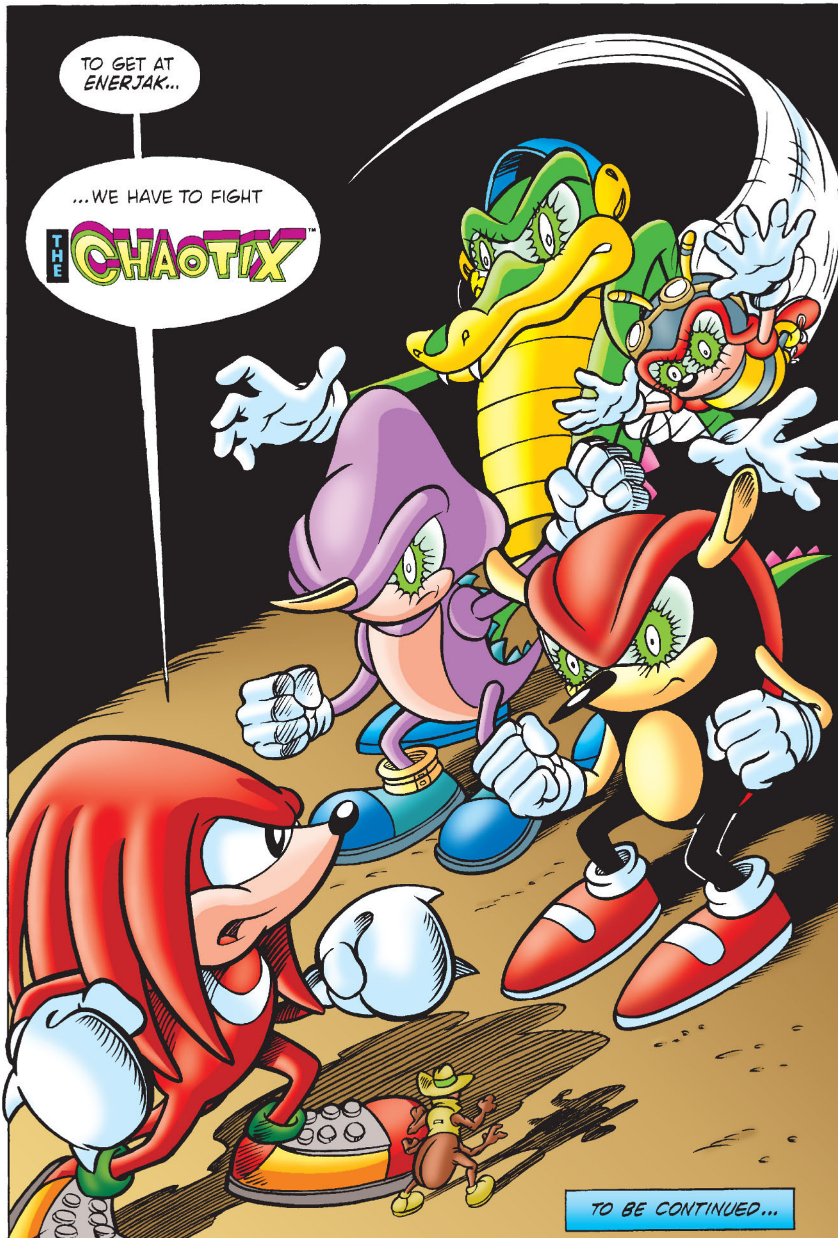
THEN WHAT ARE WE *WAITING* FOR?
WAH-HOOOO!
KER-WHAM!
BLANG!
THE CITADEL IS UNDER ATTACK!
ALL UNITS...
...CONVERGE!
BLANG!
HOLEEEE--!
19


RRRUUMMBRBLLEE
FWA-VOOOM!
CRUSH!
KILL!
DESTROY!
SMOOTH MOVE, GENIUS!
NOW EVERY MECHA-NAUT IN THE CITY IS AFTER US!
20


EXACTLY!
GATE RELEASE
KLAKT!
WON'T DO MY DISTANT GRAND-UNCLE A WHOLE WORLD OF GOOD IF THEY'RE OUT THERE...
"...AND WE'RE IN HERE!"
GATE RELEASE
GRA-DUNGE!
KER-RUNCH!
KER-RUNCH!
KER-RUNCH!
whew
NEXT TIME YOU PULL A CRAZY STUNT LIKE THAT...
...GIVE AN ANT A LITTLE WARNING FIRST!
SORRY.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT-- WE'VE GOTTEN TOO FAR--MET WITH TOO LITTLE RESISTANCE!
I THOUGHT ENERJAK WOULD HAVE BETTER...
21



...DEFENSES?
TRIP!
OW!
STING!
VRRUUUMBLL
OOMPH!
THOOM!
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
...HE DOES!
OH, NO.


TO GET AT ENERJAK...
...WE HAVE TO FIGHT THE CHAOTIX™
TO BE CONTINUED...